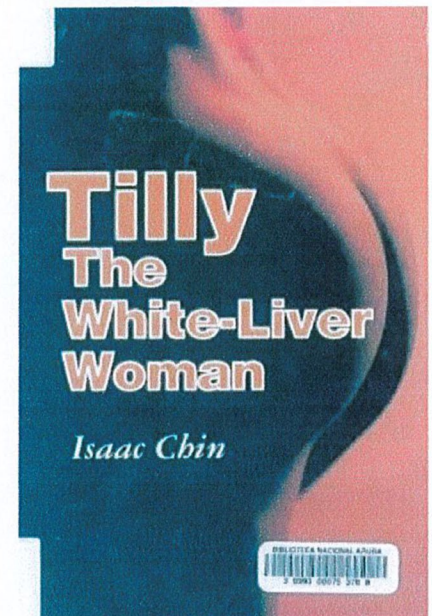


Isaac Chin

Born to immigrant Chinese and East Indian parents in British Guiana (now Guyana), under impoverished conditions, Isaac Joseph Chin passed through a kaleidoscope of careers, adventure and undertakings, never shirking an obligation or a reasonable challenge, he avers. Now 87 and retired from wage-earning activities, he is busy-when daylight permits-in his fruit orchard or his workshop, even on the roofs of his houses on Aruba, the sunny, little island in the Caribbean. When daylight fades he is at his telescope looking at terrestrial bodies. Or in bed rummaging through his past for things that might make interesting reading.

Starting at the age of 14 as a student primary school teacher in Trinidad, (starting monthly salary of about U.S.\$ 2), he worked his way through college in the U.S., all the while doing newspaper reporting, architectural drafting, building construction, feature-writing, community activities, globe-trotting. He retired as Engineering associate from Lago Oil & Transport Company on Aruba, an Exxon affiliate.

In *Tilly The White-Liver Woman*, he relives some of his daytime and nighttime dreams. And, as most dreams are, they are blends of fact and fiction: the names of places and persons are actual, used only to enhance credibility; whereas, the incidents are only partly historical. As he says in one of his stories, he is now spending some time trying to score points for entry to heaven, and good attendance at his send-off at grave side.



Born post-World War I in British Guiana (now Guyana), one of three impoverished brothers of East Indian and Chinese descent, “Himself” had been given the Christian name of Isaac and was required to share the middle name of Joseph with his male siblings. (When you’re too poor to have your own middle name...) But *Where Is Choy?*

Sent to live in the care of his mother’s brother, Uncle Ahchoy, who soon left Guyana to seek his fortune in Trinidad, Young Choy (as he came to be known) grew up enjoying the pleasures and pastimes of the tropics. Early on he appears to us as a young man with an affinity for teaching as well as a strong desire to learn. A veritable Marco Polo for the twentieth century, he studied architectural drafting while traveling through the United States and the Lesser Antilles. Later on, employed by the Exxon Company in Aruba, Choy was frequently exhorted to “do something!” and he came up with ingenious solutions to oil-spill-related problems.

Here is a jaunty journey through the life and times of a smart (mostly) self-taught civil engineer who was his own star pupil.

HIMSELF, after an active career as a civil engineer from which he is now retired, has been a primary school teacher and enjoys gardening, building and community work,